

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a drum assembly for an internal drum-type imaging apparatus, the drum assembly defining an imaging surface which is at least semi-cylindrical, comprising the steps of:

releasably wrapping a drum skin around a generally cylindrical mandrel having an axis, the drum skin defining an imaging surface;

attaching a drum to the drum skin while the drum skin is wrapped around the mandrel, the drum and drum skin defining an at least semi-cylindrical interface, the drum and attached drum skin cooperating to define a vacuum chamber;

generating a fluid bearing between the drum skin and the mandrel to separate the drum skin from the mandrel; and

moving the drum and attached drum skin relative to the mandrel and in a direction parallel to the axis to remove the drum assembly from the mandrel while maintaining the fluid bearing between the drum skin and the mandrel, whereby the drum and drum skin define an imaging surface that is greater than semi-cylindrical.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
applying an anti-adherent material to the mandrel prior to the step of releasably mounting the drum skin to the mandrel.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of attaching the drum includes adhesively attaching the drum to the drum skin.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the drum comprises more than one drum portion, and the step of attaching the drum includes attaching one drum portion at a time to the drum skin.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the drum skin has a plurality of apertures, and the step of generating a fluid bearing includes the step of providing a fluid to the vacuum chamber at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of releasably wrapping a drum skin includes releasably clamping the drum skin to the mandrel.

7. The method of claim 1, the mandrel and wrapped drum skin having a first radius, wherein the step of attaching the drum to the drum skin includes attaching a drum having a radius slightly greater than the first radius.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the drum radius is about 20 mils greater than the first radius.

9. A drum assembly for an internal drum-type imaging apparatus, the drum assembly defining an imaging surface which is at least semi-cylindrical, the assembly made in accordance with a method comprising the steps of:

releasably wrapping a drum skin around a generally cylindrical mandrel having an axis, the drum skin defining an imaging surface;

attaching a drum to the drum skin while the drum skin is wrapped around the mandrel, the drum and drum skin defining an at least semi-cylindrical interface and cooperating to define a vacuum chamber;

generating a fluid bearing between the drum skin and the mandrel to separate the drum skin from the mandrel; and

moving the drum and attached drum skin relative to the mandrel and in a direction parallel to the axis to remove the drum assembly from the mandrel while maintaining the fluid bearing between the drum skin and the mandrel, whereby the drum and drum skin define an imaging surface that is greater than semi-cylindrical.

²/₁₀. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

applying an anti-adherent material to the mandrel prior to the step of releasably wrapping the drum skin to the mandrel.

³/₁₁. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, wherein the step of attaching the drum includes adhesively attaching the drum to the drum skin.

⁴/₁₂. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, wherein the drum comprises more than one drum portion, and the step of attaching the drum includes attaching the drum portions one at a time to the drum skin.

⁶/₁₆. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, wherein the drum skin has a plurality of apertures, and the step of generating a fluid bearing includes the step of providing fluid to the vacuum chamber at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

⁶/₁₄. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, wherein the step of releasably wrapping a drum skin includes releasably clamping the drum skin to the mandrel.

⁷/₁₆. The assembly of claim ¹/₉, the mandrel and wrapped drum skin having a first radius, and the step of attaching the drum includes attaching a drum having a radius slightly greater than the first radius.

⁸/₁₆. The assembly of claim ⁷/₁₆, wherein the drum radius is about 20 mils greater than the first radius.

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